

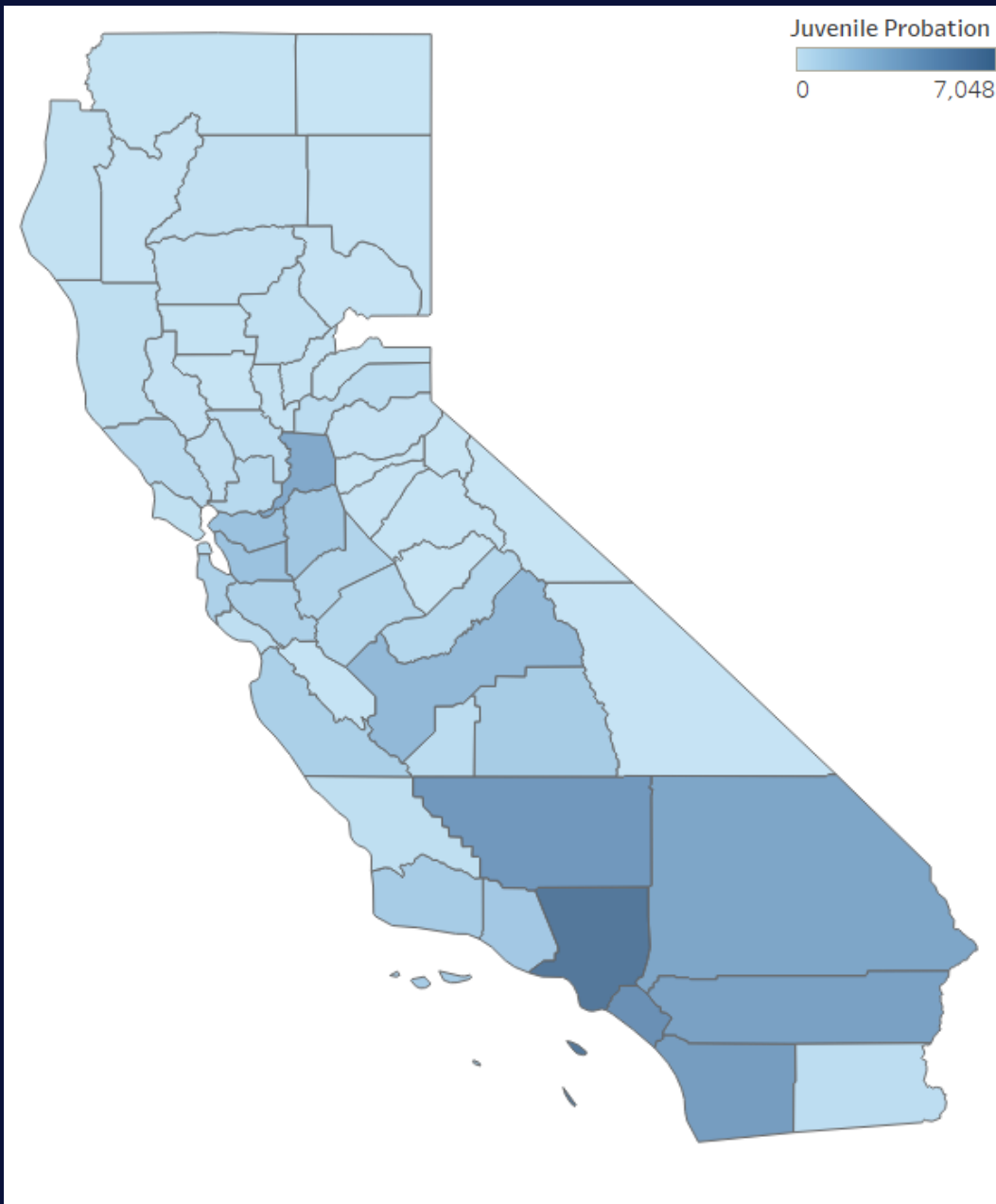
Reducing Effects of Poverty within the Juvenile Justice and Criminal Justice Systems

Lifting Children and Families out of Poverty Task Force

July 18, 2018

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2017 Juvenile Probation at a Glance

Juvenile Probation Population

35,000

Wardship

20,000

Juvenile Detention/Camps

4,500

Foster Care Probation

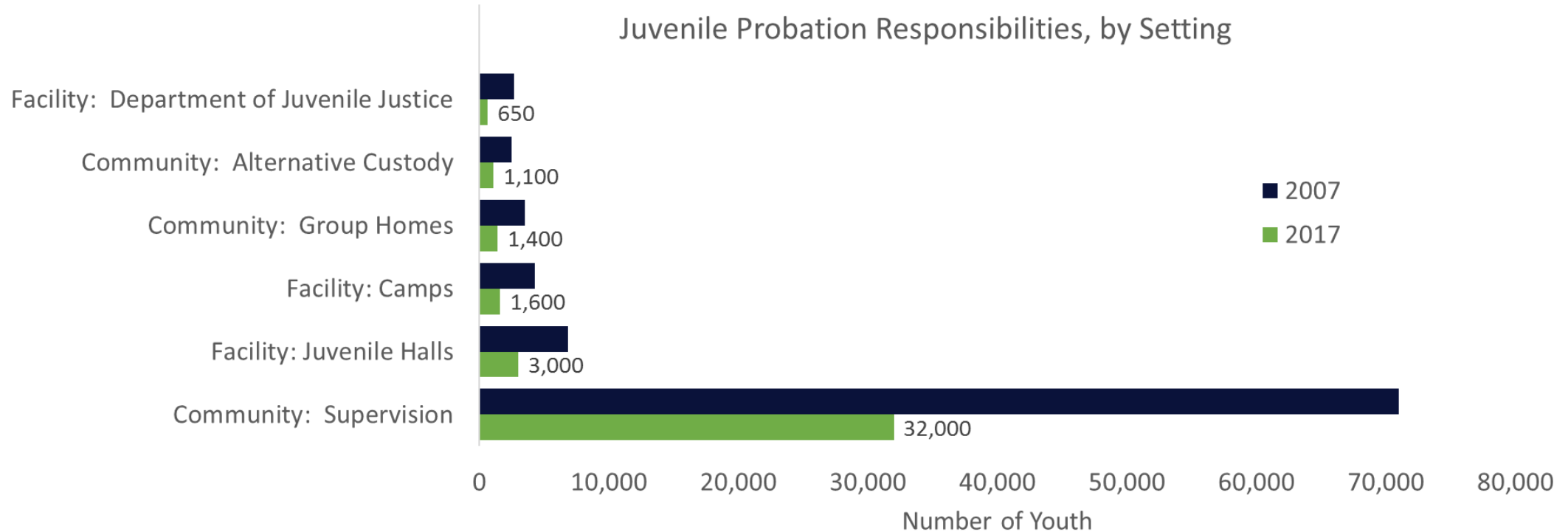
2,665

Informal Probation

8,000

Source: CPOC Annual Survey and CWS-CMS

Since 2007, more youth stay in the community, and 50% fewer youth are in the system

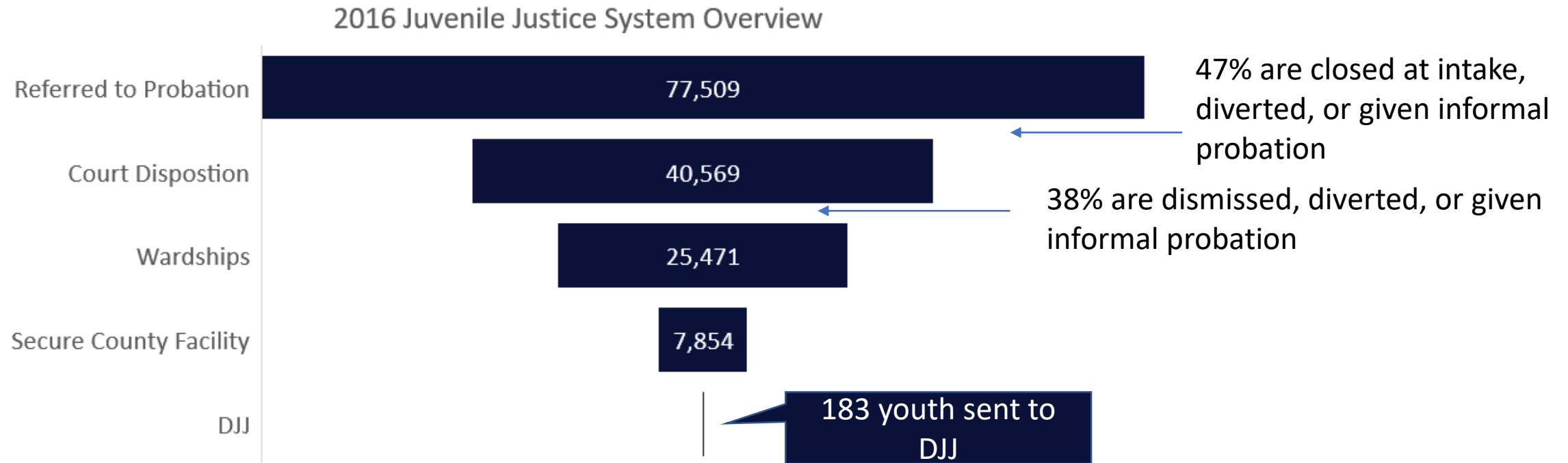


Source: CPOC, BSCC, DOJ & CWS-CMS



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68% of case outcomes occur before wardship



Adult Probation

- Statewide, as of June 30, 2017, probation departments supervised over four times more felony than misdemeanor cases on formal supervision.
- Total of 355,666 adults under probation supervision
 - 255,836 felony cases
 - 47,294 misdemeanor cases



What we know...

- Children in families where no adults have a high school diploma are more likely to live in poverty (53% of those in poverty, PPIC, October 2016)
- In 2015 21.6% of youth lived in poverty. Without safety net measures this percentage would increase to 36%. Safety net measures include, but are not limited to: SNAP/food stamps, Cal Works, Child Tax Credit, housing subsidies, school meals etc. (PPIC, October 2016)
- Roughly 7% of children have a parent currently or previously incarcerated. This equates to 5 million youth across the country. (Child Trends, 2015)



Child Trends: *Parents Behind Bars* (2015 report)

- *“It is difficult to identify the unique effects of parental incarceration on children, as its occurrence tends to be associated with numerous other risk factors. As an example, people in poor communities are more likely to be incarcerated. So, if a child with an incarcerated parent has problems in school (for example), it can be challenging to disentangle the effects of parental incarceration from those of other risk factors, such as experiencing extreme poverty. Complicating matters further, parental incarceration can also exacerbate these associated risk factors, through loss of income, for example.”*



Important caveat to presentation

- Important to view presentation from lens of how we can reduce involvement in the juvenile justice and criminal justice systems by addressing affects of poverty.
- Presentation is not meant to suggest that poverty alone assumes that one will engage in delinquent or criminal conduct.



Poverty's affect on involvement with juvenile justice system

- Juvenile delinquency court is a civil court – important distinction from adult criminal court.
- Focus on needs of youth and family in addition to offense committed by youth
 - Does the focus on youth and family needs lead to youth experiencing poverty themselves becoming more deeply involved in the juvenile justice system because they may be in need of more services?



Discussion

- Many times when a youth comes to probation, the youth has been served by other county agencies prior to their coming to probation's attention.
 - Can we further strengthen our community resources earlier upstream to avoid juvenile justice involvement for those in poverty?
 - How can we better support parents to reduce the likelihood their children will come into contact with the juvenile justice system?



Present Challenges and Needs

- Need – as a community – to distinguish between criminogenic behavior and behavior that is a result of an untreated or mistreated need of a youth that is misinterpreted as an unlawful act. For example: trauma, abuse, addiction, undiagnosed mental illness, hunger, acting in self-defense
- Lack of eligibility or access to legitimate sources of income leads to reliance on “quick easy money” and criminal conduct – sometimes to address underlying issues, i.e. addiction, hunger, other basic needs.
- Too easy to get frustrated and just say let’s let the juvenile justice system deal with it. Need to recognize these multi-faceted cases (many needs of youth and family coupled with involvement in the justice system) are challenging on those providing the direct services (intense level of frustration/fatigue experienced by service personnel)



Statistics on groups over-represented in poverty and in juvenile justice and criminal justice systems

- 31% of Latino children, 28% of black children, and 14% of other children of color live in poverty versus 12% of white children (California Budget & Policy Center)
- Offenders representing minority groups make up approximately 70% of those serving time in prison as of December 2017 (CDCR Office of Research)
- Over 80% of youth in the Division of Juvenile Justice are youth of color as of December 2017 (DJJ Population Overview)



Best Practices

- Housing
- Employment
- Access to Services
- Engagement in (and examples of adults engaged in) pro-social activities
- Keeping youth and families intact and if placement is needed – keeping that placement close to home
- Education
- Wraparound services
- Focus on evidenced based practices – EBP fidelity
- Improved collaboration between government agencies and between government agencies and community based agencies



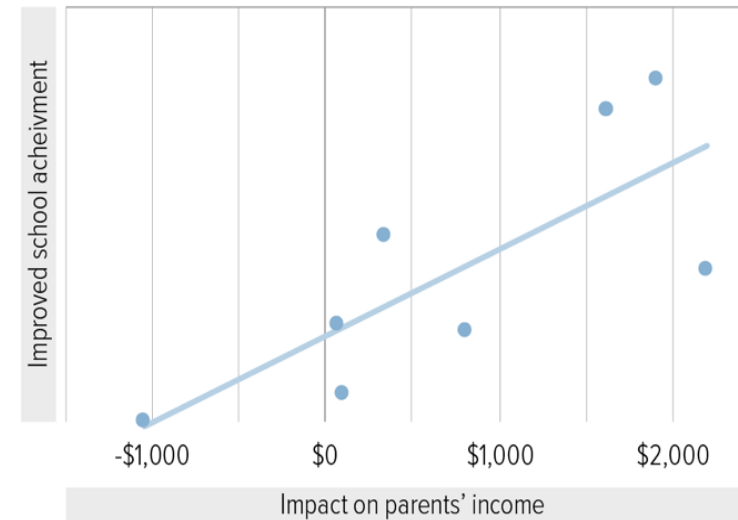
Best Practices – Focus on Housing and Employment

- Recent studies in Washington State on reentry clients where offenders were offered housing vouchers or housing programs showed positive impacts on reducing recidivism. (Hamilton, Z., Kigerl, A., & Hays, Z 2013.; Lutz, F.E., Rosky, J., & Hamilton, Z.K. 2014)
- Studies of re-entry clients where offenders receive employment referrals, job training, or subsidized employment were shown to reduce recidivism, increase earnings, and reduce technical violations (Uwe, G. 2015; Farabee, D., Zhang, S.X., & Wright, B. 2014)



The More Programs Raised Parents' Income (When Children Were Ages Two to Five), The More They Tended to Lift Children's Later Achievement in School

Among 8 Anti-Poverty and Welfare-to-Work Pilot Programs



Note: The trend line (the line that gradually rises from left to right) shows the average relationship between programs' impacts on family income (horizontal axis) and young children's school achievement (vertical axis) across eight welfare-to-work and anti-poverty experiments. For each \$1,000 added to average family income, programs tended to raise achievement by 6 percent of a standardized measure of academic achievement. (The range is from 0 to 11 percent on that measure).

Source: Pamela Morris, Greg J. Duncan, Christopher Rodrigues, "Does Money Really Matter? Estimating Impacts of Family Income on Children's Achievement with Data from Random-Assignment Experiments," (MDRC, April 2004), as cited in Morris, Gennetian and Duncan (2005).

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Need Increased Focus on Post-Secondary Education

National Council on Crime and Delinquency:

- Students who do poorly in school are at greater risk of becoming involved in the juvenile and adult justice systems;
- Juvenile justice system-involved youth are less likely to graduate from high school, attend college, or obtain sustainable employment;
- Incarcerated adults are less likely to have a high school diploma or post-secondary degree; and
- Youth and adults of color who are detained or incarcerated are overrepresented in these populations and contribute to the educational achievement gap



Wraparound

- Supporting families where they are at
- Ensuring whatever a youth and his or her family needs is provided
- Integrated with other county agencies to ensure effective care coordination for the youth and family
- Collaboration between system partners when parent is involved in the criminal justice system
- Ensuring program is operated to fidelity. A study done in Nevada noted that when it observed less effective outcomes in wraparound programs under evaluation, it was discovered that the programs were not being done to fidelity of the wraparound model in 6 of the 10 subscales.



Recommendations

- Continue to support probation's efforts to divert – and/or offer informal probation – youth committing low-level offenses. Reduce likelihood to have further involvement in probation later in life. Match level of supervision to risk to offend. Intensive supervision for low-level of offenses (and youth found to be low-risk) has been found to increase recidivism.



Recommendations

- Further explore transitional age youth (TAY) programs under pilot by five county probation departments in California. The TAY program established a Deferred Entry of Judgment (DEJ) program whereby young adult offenders age 18-21 charged with specified offenses, could serve time in juvenile hall rather than county jail and have their charges dismissed upon successful completion of the rehabilitative program.
 - Supported by research around emerging brain development science



Recommendations

- Expand efforts for cross-agency collaboration to serve both youth and families to reduce effects of poverty and eliminate continued involvement in either the juvenile justice or criminal justice systems.
 - Includes policy development and systems for cross-agency data and information sharing, where appropriate.
- Raise awareness to the factors associated with needs based delinquency and include focus on implicit bias
- Develop local and statewide plans to address housing insufficiency



Recommendations

- Develop a multi-faceted and multi-system commitment to understand and address underlying causes to higher rates of poverty, over-representation in the juvenile justice and criminal justice systems and foster care for youth and adults of color.
 - The Board of State and Community Corrections currently provides grants to four probation departments who work with other county agencies and community based organizations to support efforts to reduce disproportionality in the juvenile justice system.



Recommendations

- Expand availability of Youth employment and job skills training, coupled with opportunities for supportive employment with “on the job training” that help youth develop work habits and adherence to a structure where their efforts are reinforced by the compensation they receive and the prosocial networks they develop.
- Juvenile justice programs that work with low-income youth should include financial literacy and opportunities to develop interest and connections to job readiness development. Importance of savings accounts, credit, debt, and asset management.



Recommendations

- Efforts to engage youth and families must be trauma-informed, community-based whenever possible, and family centered.
- Heightened awareness and response to families of children of incarcerated parents. To include clinical services, financial support, and follow-up with dental and medical care, as well as educational services designed to meet specialized needs.
- Better tracking of data to understand challenges associated with income disparity for juvenile justice system involved youth. This should include tracking income levels of juveniles' parents when possible.





Discussion and Questions
